AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 62, 63, and 70.

1-21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Original) A method for providing information to a subscriber on a messaging system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mailbox ID and service information to a messaging platform, said mailbox ID corresponding to a subscriber serviced by said messaging platform and said service information including an information type, a delivery period, and a delivery format;

sending a request to a master platform in response to said service information, said master platform responding to said request by requesting information from an information source, said information corresponding to said service information;

sending information received from said information source to said messaging platform;

converting information received from said information source into a delivery format corresponding to said delivery format selected in said step of providing service information; and

providing said information to a subscriber when said subscriber accesses a mailbox corresponding to said mailbox ID.

23.   (Original) The method in claim 22, further including the step of maintaining a master profile table, said master profile table having a messaging platform profile for each messaging platform established on the messaging network, said messaging platform profile including a host ID, an area of operation, an operation schedule, and a token pool.

24.   (Original) The method in claim 22, wherein said delivery format includes a fax delivery format.

25. (Original) The method in claim 22, wherein said delivery format includes a voice delivery format.

26. (Original) The method in claim 22, wherein said delivery format includes an email format.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said master platform forwards said information received from said information source to said messaging platform only when said messaging platform has an in-operation status.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, where said in-operation status is at least partly based on said operation schedule defined for said messaging platform.

29. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said master platform delays sending said information received from said information source to said messaging platform when said messaging platform has a non-operational status.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said non-operational status is obtained when said token pool falls below a selected threshold.

31. (Original) The method of claim 22, where said master platform converts said information received from said information source into an email format and sends said email formatted information to a mailbox supported by a messaging platform that corresponds to said mailbox ID, if an email format has been chosen as said delivery format.

32-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) A system for delivering information to a subscriber on a messaging system, the system comprising:

5

a messaging platform having means for receiving a mailbox ID and service information from a subscriber and means for requesting from a master platform information corresponding to said service information, said master platform having means for communicating with an information source, said means for communicating responsive to said means for requesting by requesting information corresponding to said service information from said information source;

wherein said master platform is configured to respond to any information received from said information source by sending said information to said messaging platform; and

wherein said messaging platform is configured to covert said information to have a delivery format corresponding to a delivery format selected by said subscriber, said messaging platform having means for providing said information in said delivery format to said subscriber when said subscriber accesses a mailbox corresponding to said mailbox ID.

53.   (Original) The system in claim 52, wherein said service information includes an information type, a delivery period, and a delivery format.

54.   (Original) The system in claim 52, wherein said delivery format includes a voice delivery format.

55.   (Original) The system in claim 52, wherein said delivery format includes an email format.

56.   (Original) The system in claim 52, wherein said delivery format includes a fax format.

57.   (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein said master platform forwards said information received from said information source to said messaging platform only when said messaging platform has an in-operation status.

58.   (Original) The system of claim 57, wherein said in-operation status is based on said operation schedule defined for said messaging platform.

59.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein said master platform is configured to delay sending said information received from said information source to said messaging platform when said messaging platform has a non-operational status.

60.   (Original) The system of claim 59, wherein said non-operational status is obtained when said token pool falls below a selected threshold.

61.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein said master platform is configured to convert said information received from said information source into an email format and sends said email formatted information to a mailbox supported by a messaging platform that corresponds to said mailbox ID, if an email format has been chosen as said delivery format.

62.   (Currently Amended) A messaging network, comprising:

a plurality of messaging platforms coupled to a communication network, each of the plurality of messaging platforms communicating with the others of the plurality of messaging platforms via the communication network;

a user messaging device coupled to a first of the plurality of messaging platforms, the user messaging device being configured to transmit a mailbox ID and service information to the first of the plurality of messaging platforms with the first of the plurality of messaging platforms being configured to receive the mailbox ID and service information and to generate a request message in response thereto;

a master platform coupled to the communication network and configured to receive the request message from the first of the plurality of messaging platforms, the request message including a request for information corresponding to the service information; and

7

an information source <u>outside the communication network</u> coupled to the master platform and configured to receive the request for information corresponding to the service information and to respond to the request with a response message, the master platform further configured to receive the response message and to transmit the response message to the first of the plurality of messaging platforms.

63. (Currently Amended) The network of claim 62 wherein the first of the plurality of messaging platforms is further configured to process the information in the information source response message to have a delivery format corresponding to a delivery format selected by a subscriber.

64. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 63 wherein the first of the plurality of messaging platforms is further configured to respond to subscriber access of a mailbox corresponding to the mailbox ID by providing the information in the information source response message to the subscriber in the selected delivery format.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62 wherein the information in the information source response message delivered to the subscriber is multimedia information.

66. (Previously Presented) The system in claim 62 wherein said service information includes an information type, a delivery period, and a delivery format.

67. (Previously Presented) The system in claim 64 wherein the delivery format comprises a selected one of a voice delivery format, an email format, and a facsimile format.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62 wherein the master platform is further configured to forward the information in the information source

response message to the first of the plurality of messaging platforms only when the first of the plurality of messaging platforms has an in-operation status.

69.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62 wherein the master platform is further configured to delay sending the information in the information source response message to the first of the plurality of messaging platforms when the first of the plurality of messaging platforms has a non-operational status.

70.   (Currently Amended) A system for delivering information to a subscriber on a messaging system, the system comprising:

a master messaging computer having a communication module;

a messaging computer having a communication module configured to receive a mailbox ID and service information from a subscriber and to communicate with the master messaging computer communication module to request from the master messaging computer information corresponding to the service information;

the master messaging computer communication module being further configured to communicate with an information source in response to the master messaging computer communication module receiving the request for information corresponding to the service information from the messaging computer communication module, the communication from the master messaging computer communication module to the information source comprising a request for information corresponding to the service information;

wherein the master messaging computer is further configured to respond to any information received from the information source by sending the information to the messaging computer;

wherein the messaging computer is further configured ~~comprises a format converter process~~ to convert the information to have a delivery format corresponding to a delivery format selected by the subscriber; and

wherein the messaging computer communication module is further configured to provide the information in the delivery format to the subscriber when the subscriber accesses a mailbox corresponding to the mailbox ID.

9